

From: Darren Lenick
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/6/01 11:41am
Subject: Settlement is pro-Microsoft

I think the last thing we need to do is assist in the growth of the monopolistic company by allowing them to donate their software to our poor schools. This would only enhance their position and strengthen their hold on the computer industry.

I am a user of Microsoft products, not by choice, but by requirement. As a network professional with more than 15 years experience, my preference would be to use a more open and less expensive architecture. I use both Linux and Windows in my daily life, however, I can't share documents with my clients and employees if I use my Linux system and software. This is solely because of the closed architecture of Microsoft products in that competitors can't create applications that will easily read files created in Word and Excel.

As a reseller, I am appalled at the pricing structure of Microsoft products as well. The standard rules of mass production don't seem to apply to Microsoft. They sell the products by the millions and yet the pricing is outrageous. I don't believe developmental costs are as high as they claim, as the products that are released are far from stable. I encourage my clients to wait until the first service pack is release prior to installing the "latest and greatest".

Until other companies can be allowed to compete fairly in the market place, I think Microsoft will continue to grow. Any monopoly is bad for our economy and our citizens. Take the telephone and utility companies as examples. There is no quality of service from any of them here in Southern California. I have clients with problems that are told they need to wait 8 days for a resolution, as that's how long it takes to update the database! They must be using Microsoft products.

Sincerely,

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